

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly Newscast

October 11th, 2013

Lessons prepared by Barbara Edmondson, Kim Chaba-Armstrong & Justine Light

Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

smugglers (people who illegally import or export)	estimated (made a good guess)
overloaded (having too many people or things)	survived (stayed alive)
capsized (turn upside down)	migrants (moving people)

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

get someone's attention – to get someone to notice; to attract someone's focus

take on (phrasal verb) - to take in; to allow to enter

1. The _____ were trying to bring weapons from the U.S. to Canada. They were caught at the border.
2. Many _____ have moved from eastern Canada to Alberta looking for work.
3. My backpack was _____ with books, so the strap broke.
4. I spent an _____ 8 hours doing my research project this weekend.
5. When everyone moved to the back of the small boat, the boat _____.
6. After the terrible accident, they took the people who _____ to the hospital.
7. During Thanksgiving, it is hard for me to _____ eating too much pumpkin pie.
8. My mother has a _____ fence around her yard, so it needs to be fixed soon.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Chronological order (in order of time)

Put the following sentences in the order that they happened; **not** in the order they are said in the story.

- _____ When the flames spread, the passengers moved to one side of the boat.
- _____ The rickety fishing boat was on its way to the Italian island of Lapedusa.
- _____ The boat capsized.
- _____ The boat began to take on water.
- 1** 500 African migrants left Africa on a smuggler's boat looking for a better life in Europe.
- _____ Someone on the boat started a fire to get the attention of passing ships.
- _____ The boat sank and more than 300 people died.
- _____ Only 155 people survived this tragedy in the Mediterranean Sea.

Discussion Question

Why do some migrants try to be smuggled into a country rather than going through the application process to become a legal immigrant?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. latest	a) a group of things, such as pieces of art, collected by one person or group
	2. public	b) most recent, newest
	3. collection	c) very bad, of low quality
	4. hoop	d) open to the whole community, people as a whole
	5. awful	e) a plan to show how you will spend money
	6. capital project	f) a ring usually made of metal or wood
	7. budget	g) a plan to purchase land, buildings, machinery or other things to increase the city's value

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. _____ Naheed Nenshi is very excited about the newest piece of public art in Calgary.
2. _____ The new piece of art is called Travelling Light.
3. _____ The work of art is in Calgary's southeast.
4. _____ The project cost \$470,000.
5. _____ Each year the City of Calgary spends 1% of the capital project budget on pieces of art.

Discussion Questions

Do you think public art is important to a city? Why or why not? Have you seen any public art in your city?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) officials	a) found out detected
	2) spied	b) have hold
	3) concerned	c) secretly watched discreetly observed
	4) discovered	d) 159 Liter containers cask
	5) explanation	e) representatives government employees
	6) contain	f) worried anxious
	7) barrels	g) reason cause

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

"reaching out" – trying hard to communicate; trying to explain

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. _____ are "reaching out" to _____ over recent reports.	a) Brazilian officials / Canadian officials b) Canadian officials / Brazilian officials
2. There are reports that _____ Brazil's Mines and Energy Ministry.	a) Canada spied on b) Canada relied on
3. Stephen Harper _____ he didn't explain any more about the spying.	a) is very concerned but b) is very confused so
4. _____ may be that in 2007, Brazil discovered a huge amount of oil.	a) One effect b) One explanation
5. The Libra Oil Field is thought to contain _____ barrels of oil.	a) between 8 and 10 million b) between 8 and 10 billion

Discussion Question

Do you think countries need to spy on each other for reasons of national security?

Language Focus

Identifying Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe or give more information about nouns and pronouns. We use adjectives to enhance ideas or help us describe something clearly. An adjective usually comes before the noun that it modifies.

Adjectives tell us the number, opinion, a physical description, the origin, the material, and purpose of nouns. Adjectives are not necessary for a sentence to make sense, but they help the reader/listener better understand what we are describing.

Look at some examples from the stories this week:

“More than 300 people are dead after a smugglers' boat sank to the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea.”

Without adjectives = People are dead after a boat sank to the bottom of the sea.

“The rickety fishing boat was on its way to the tiny Italian island of Lampedus...”

Without adjectives = The boat was on its way to the island of Lampedusa...

Notice that some nouns have more than one adjective to describe them. When we use more than one adjective the adjectives must appear in a **certain order**:

Determiner	Opinion	Size	Shape	Age	Color	Origin	Material	Qualifier/ purpose	Noun
a	beautiful		square	old	brown	Korean	wood	tea	table
several		small			gold	Chinese	silk		dresses

Look though the stories this week and see how many adjectives you can find. Highlight the adjectives and underline the nouns or pronouns they describe. *Some answers are in the appendix.*

Transcripts of Weekly News Stories

	OCTOBER 11 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English on CBC for the week of October 11 th .	0:00
Story 1	More than 300 people are dead after a smugglers' boat sank to the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea. Only 155 of the estimated 500 people on board survived. The rickety fishing boat was on its way to the tiny Italian island of Lampedusa, overloaded with African migrants looking for a better life in Europe. After the boat started taking on water, someone on board started a fire to get the attention of passing ships. The flames spread and frightened passengers rushed to one side to avoid the fire. The boat then capsized.	0:08
Story 2	Calgary's mayor isn't happy about the latest public art to join the city's collection. It's called Travelling Light - a large blue metal hoop with streetlights on top of it. It is in Calgary's northeast on the new 96th Avenue bridge near Deerfoot Trail. Naheed Nenshi says the \$470,000-project was chosen before he won the last election. He's calling the new art work "awful" and "terrible". The City has a policy where 1% of a capital project's budget must be used for public art.	0:53
Story 3	Prime Minister Stephen Harper says Canadian officials are "reaching out" to Brazilian officials over reports that Canada spied on the South American country's Mines and Energy Ministry. Harper says he is "very, very concerned," but the prime minister did not explain any more about the spying. One explanation may be that in 2007 Brazil said it had discovered a huge amount of oil. The Liberia Oil Field is thought to contain between 8 billion and 10 billion barrels of oil.	1:34

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

1. The smugglers were trying to bring weapons from the U.S. to Canada. They were caught at the border.
2. Many migrants have moved from eastern Canada to Alberta looking for work.
3. My backpack was overloaded with books, so the strap broke.
4. I spent an estimated 8 hours doing my research project this weekend.
5. When everyone moved to the back of the small boat, the boat capsized.
6. After the terrible accident, they took the people who survived to the hospital.
7. During Thanksgiving, it is hard for me to avoid eating too much pumpkin pie.
8. My mother has a rickety fence around her yard, so it needs to be fixed soon.

Listening

5 When the flames spread, the passengers moved to one side of the boat.
2 The rickety fishing boat was on its way to the Italian island of Lampedusa.
6 The boat capsized.
3 The boat began to take on water.
1 500 African migrants left Africa on a smuggler's boat looking for a better life in Europe.
4 Someone on the boat started a fire to get the attention of passing ships.
7 The boat sank and more than 300 people died.
8 Only 155 people survived this tragedy in the Mediterranean Sea.

News story 2

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
b	1. latest	a) a group of things, such as pieces of art, collected by one person or group
d	2. public	b) most recent, newest
a	3. collection	c) very bad, of low quality
f	4. hoop	d) open to the whole community, people as a whole
c	5. awful	e) a plan to show how you will spend money
g	6. capital project	f) a ring usually made of metal or wood
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Listening

1. **F** Naheed Nenshi is very excited about the newest piece of public art in Calgary.
2. **T** The new piece of art is called Travelling Light.
3. **F** The work of art is in Calgary's southeast.
4. **T** The project cost \$470,000.
5. **T** Each year the City of Calgary spends 1% of the capital project budget on pieces of art.

News story 3

Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
e	1) officials	a) found out detected
c	2) spied	b) have hold
f	3) concerned	c) secretly watched discretely observed
a	4) discovered	d) 159 Liter containers cask
g	5) explanation	e) representatives government employees
b	6) contain	f) worried anxious
d	7) barrels	g) reason cause

Listening

1. _____ are "reaching out" to _____ over recent reports.	a) Brazilian officials / Canadian officials b) Canadian officials / Brazilian officials
2. There are reports that _____ Brazil's Mines and Energy Ministry.	a) Canada spied on b) Canada relied on
3. Stephen Harper _____ he didn't explain any more about the spying.	a) is very concerned but b) is very confused so
4. _____ may be that in 2007 Brazil discovered a huge amount of oil.	a) One effect b) One explanation
5. The Liberia Oil Field is thought to contain _____ barrels of oil.	a) between 8 and 10 million b) between 8 and 10 billion

Language focus

The rickety fishing boat was on its way to the tiny Italian island of Lampedusa, overloaded with African migrants looking for a better life in Europe.

After the boat started taking on water, someone on board started a fire to get the attention of passing ships. The flames spread and frightened passengers rushed to one side to avoid the fire.